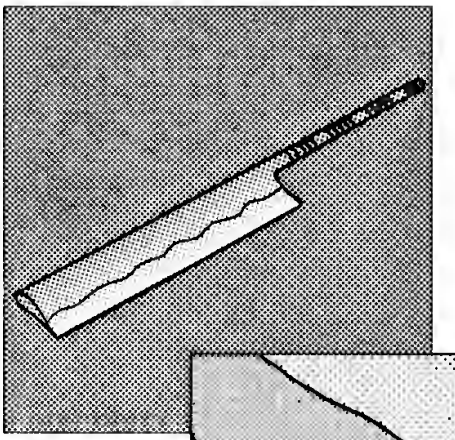
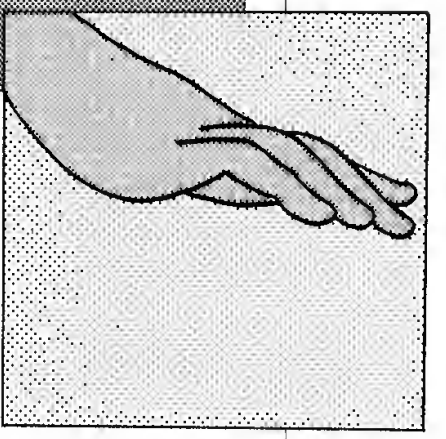
Tale 23

Eating Human Flesh





Tale 24

The Maiden's Kiss

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MONK FROM ZOJO-JI TEMPLE WHO KEPT EATING FLESH OFF CORPSES?
OH YES, I CERTAINLY DID.
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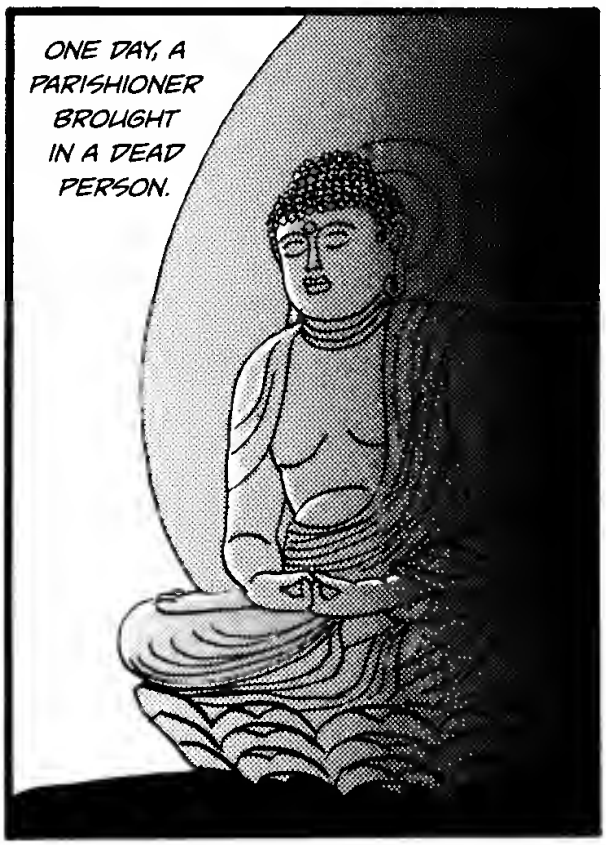
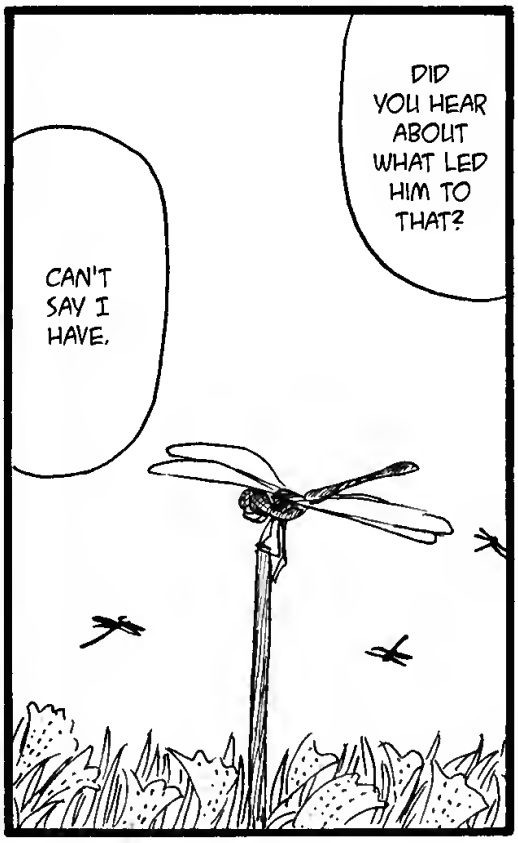
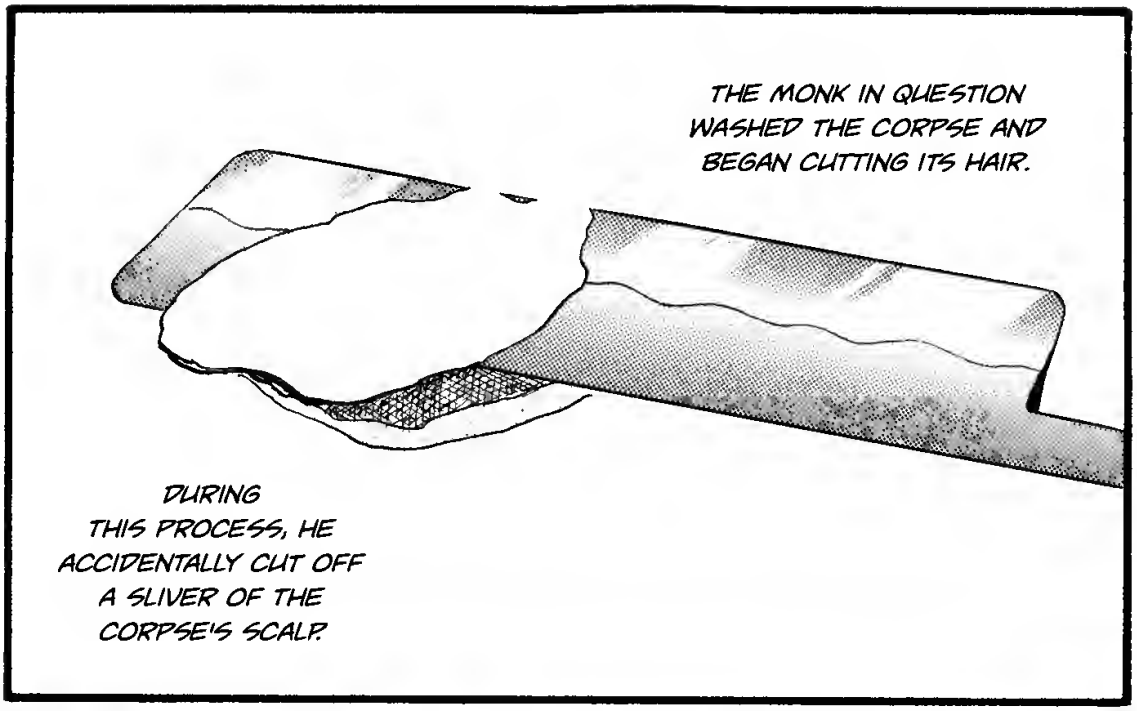
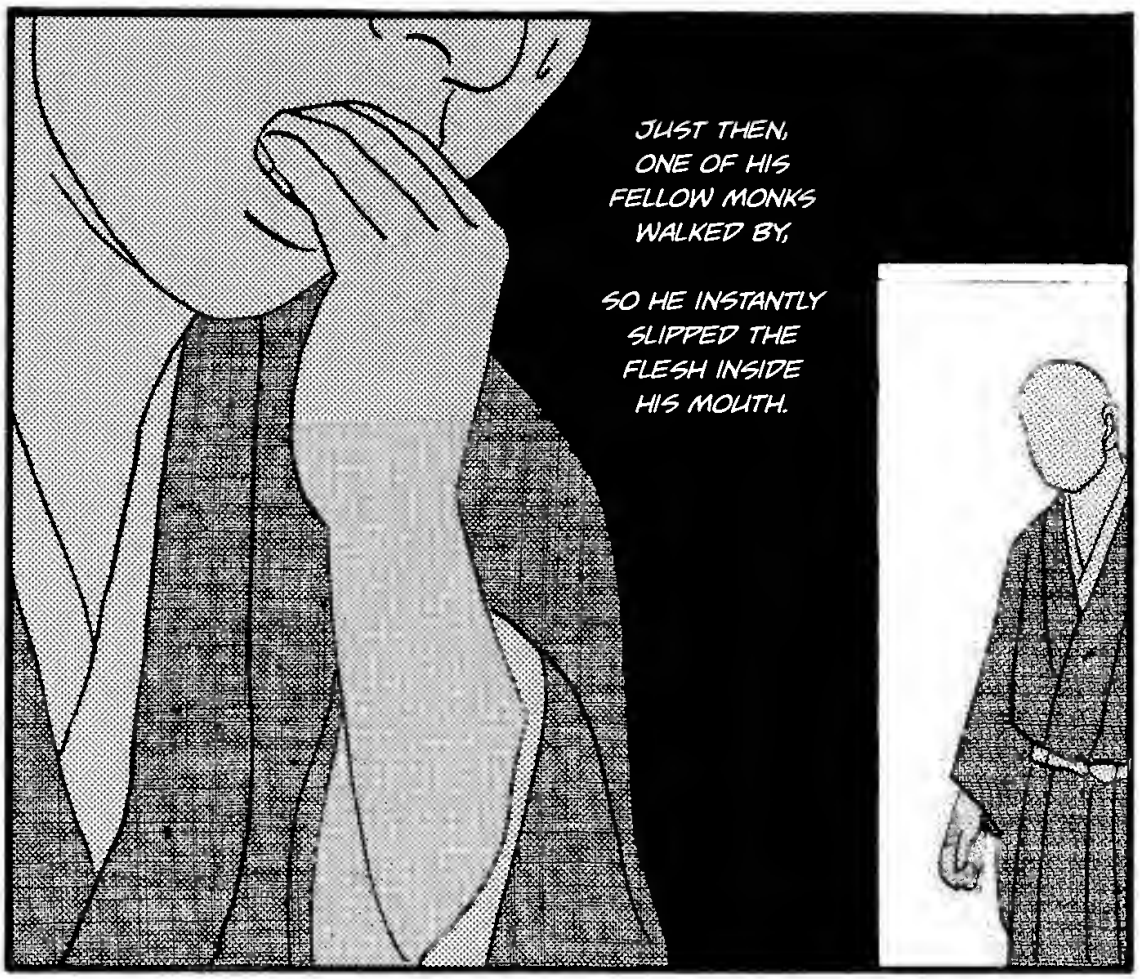
カナ CHIRP CHIRP
カナ

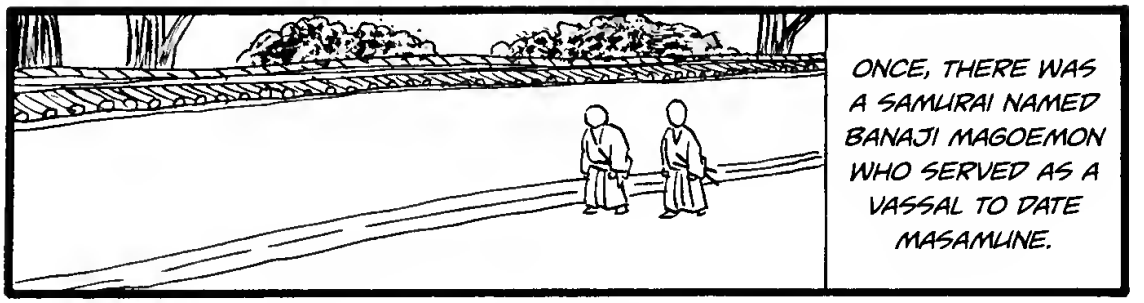

ONE DAY, A PARISHIONER BROUGHT IN A DEAD PERSON.


DID YOU HEAR ABOUT WHAT LED HIM TO THAT?
CAN'T SAY I HAVE.

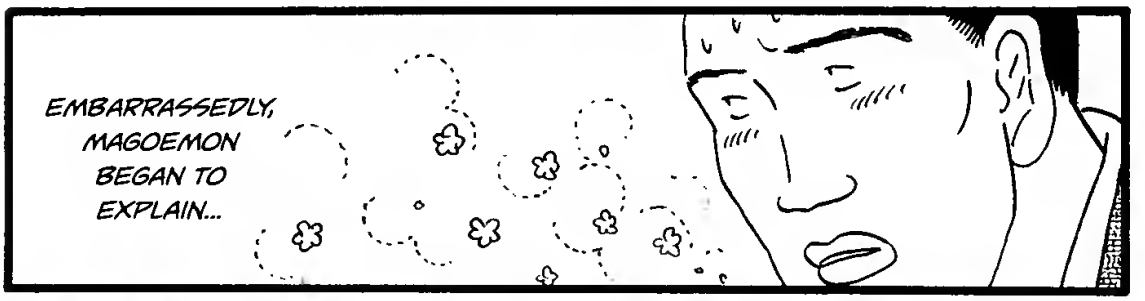

THE MONK IN QUESTION WASHED THE CORPSE AND BEGAN CUTTING ITS HAIR.
DURING THIS PROCESS, HE ACCIDENTALLY CUT OFF A SLIVER OF THE CORPSE'S SCALP.

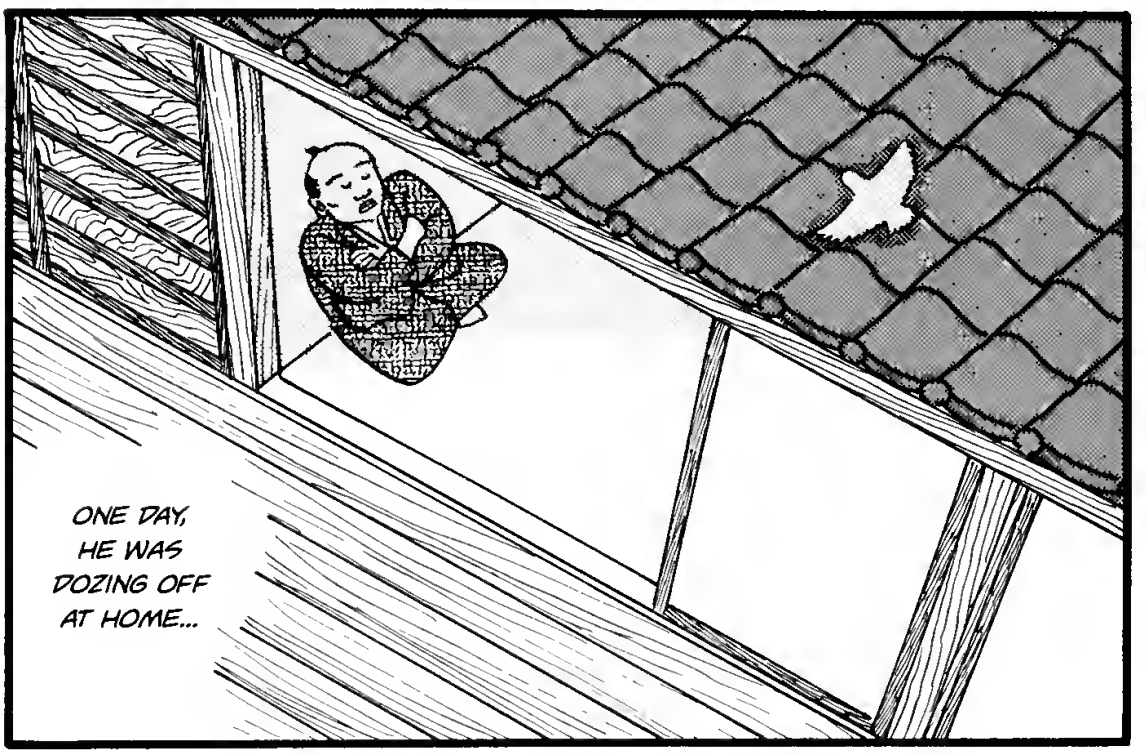

JUST THEN, ONE OF HIS FELLOW MONKS WALKED BY.
SO HE INSTANTLY SLIPPED THE FLESH INSIDE HIS MOUTH.

HE ONLY DID IT ORIGINALLY BECAUSE HE WAS EMBARRASSED, BUT ENDED UP DEVELOPING A TASTE FOR THE PECULIAR FLAVOR.
LET ME TELL A NICE ONE TO BALANCE IT OUT, THEN.
SORRY FOR TELLING SUCH A CREEPY TALE.
WHO KNOWS. I'M SURE HE WAS FORCED TO LEAVE THE TEMPLE EVENTUALLY.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MONK AFTER THAT?

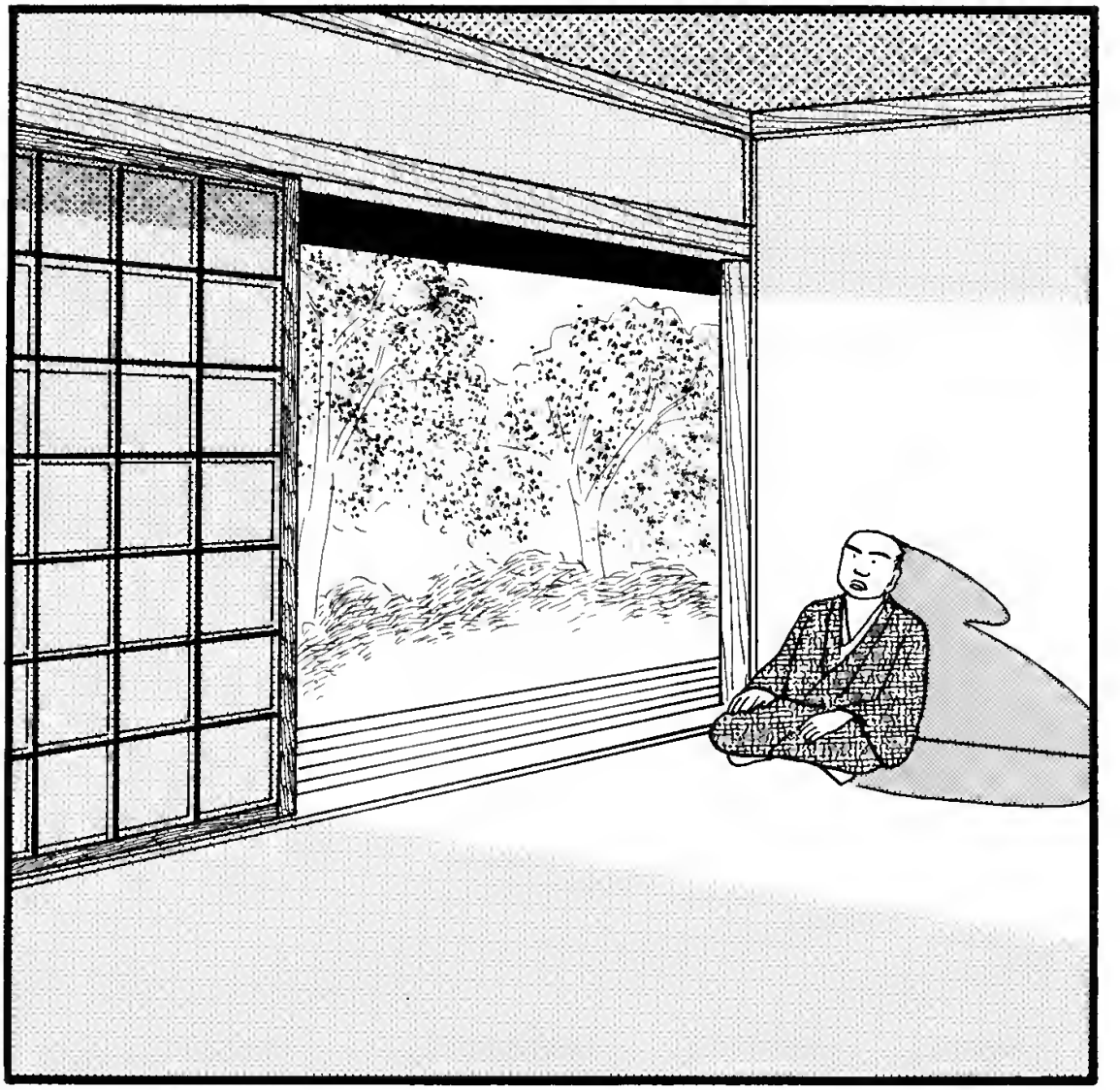

ONCE, THERE WAS A SAMURAI NAMED BANAJI MAGOEMON WHO SERVED AS A VASSAL TO DATE MASAMUNE.

SO ONE DAY A FELLOW SAMURAI GOT CURIOUS AND ASKED HIM WHAT SORT OF MEDICINE HE WAS TAKING.
!
?
THERE WAS ALWAYS A SWEET AROMA THAT WAFTED OUT FROM HIS MOUTH,

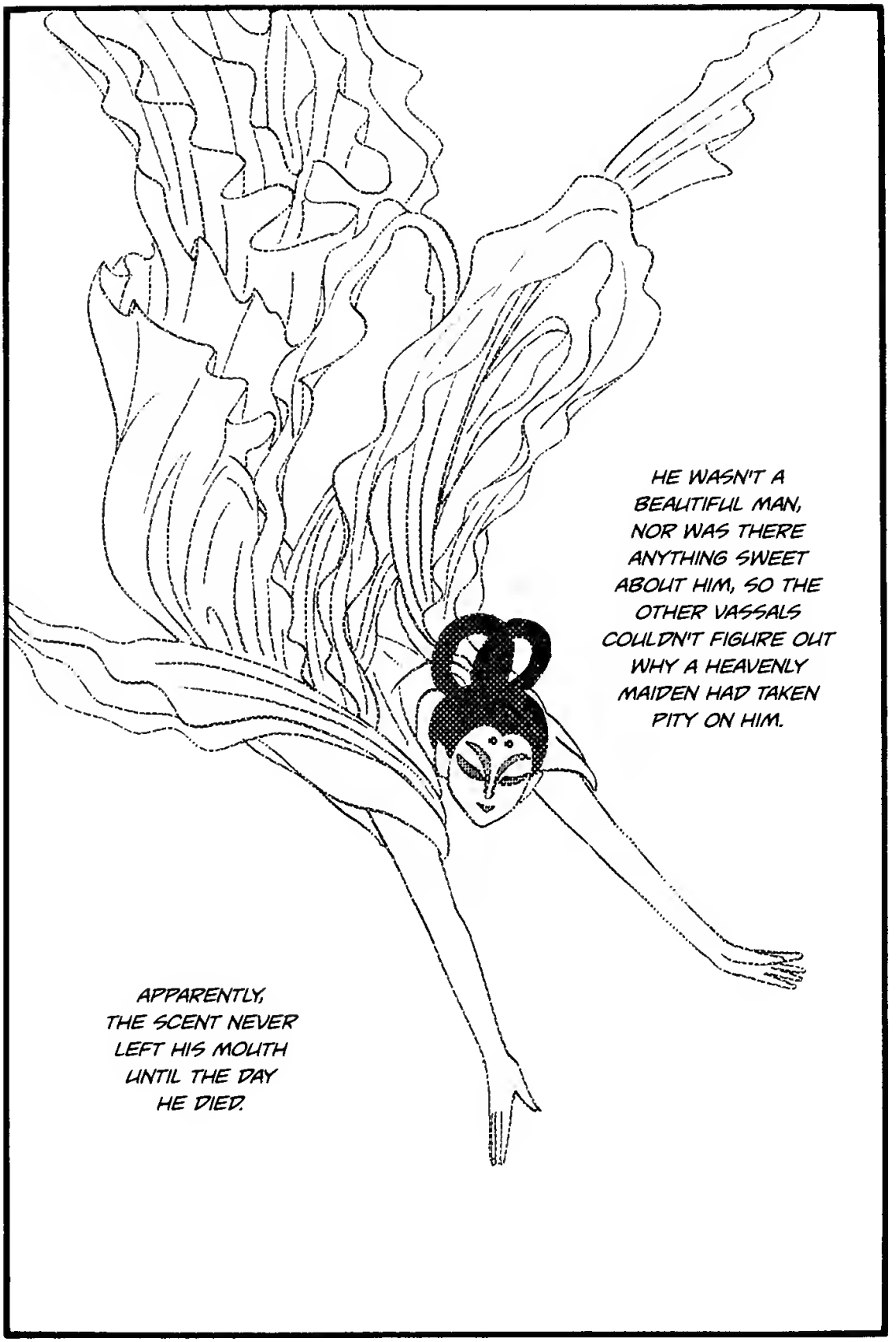

EMBARRASSEDLY, MAGOEMON BEGAN TO EXPLAIN...


ONE DAY, HE WAS DOZING OFF AT HOME...

AS HE WANDERED
THE LINE BETWEEN
REALITY AND SLEEP,
A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN
DESCENDED FROM
THE HEAVENS
AND
KISSED HIM
ON THE LIPS.



EVER SINCE THEN, A SWEET AROMA HAS REMAINED IN HIS MOUTH.


HE WASN'T A BEAUTIFUL MAN, NOR WAS THERE ANYTHING SWEET ABOUT HIM, SO THE OTHER VASSALS COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHY A HEAVENLY MAIDEN HAD TAKEN PITY ON HIM.
APPARENTLY, THE SCENT NEVER LEFT HIS MOUTH UNTIL THE DAY HE DIED.